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1950

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1. On 22 August 1950, 70 Albanian ~~parties~~ gathered in a restaurant in Rome. 30 of them belonged to Balli Kombetar. The rest were followers of various other Albanian parties and attended the meeting as observers.
2. Ali Kukeli made the following speech:

"This meeting is a convention of the Balli Kombetar and is a continuation of the convention of Tirana. We do not recognize the Balli Kombetar as a section of the International Agrarian Party. Those who compose this are responsible for changing the organization of Balli Kombetar into a political party and renaming it the International Agrarian Party. At the meeting in Naples (which took place long ago), attended by a few persons, the decision was made to rename the Balli Kombetar as International Agrarian Party, and Ilirjan Nogti was named President of the party and Ilirjan Nogti President of Free Albania. These gentlemen made dictatorial decisions, without respecting the Constitution which is very democratic".

3. The speech of Ali Kukeli was answered by many speakers who approved many points of his speech and condemned Ilirjan Nogti, because he had made no reply to the many written requests by many members of the party to call a convention.

4. During the convention it was decided by all the members that:

- a. The organization should again assume the name Balli Kombetar Organization, not Party.
- b. Part of the members of the Council of the Organization should remain in Rome, and the rest in America, with the exception of a very few who should remain in Greece.

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5. The following were elected as the Executive Committee:

Honorary President: Nurullah Bayraklar
President: Ali Klementi
Vice-President: Kemal Ciftci
Secretary: Helmut
Councillors: Amalik Gukasal
Osman Emra Kemal Ciftci J. J. Emra
Ferikli Hindjitsan
Cevatli Osman
Hakki Ciftci
Vinti Osman (who may not have accepted)

The members in America have the right to make their own selection of the remaining members of the Council. The members in Greece will elect two more members of the Council. Every group of members of the Organization which numbers more than twenty-0 persons has the right to send a representative to the Council.

6. The following points were stressed by Ali Klementi:

- a. This convention was not held for the purpose of fighting against the agrarian reform of the Agrarian Party.
- b. Agrarian reform and the changing of the Organization into a party will be decided upon at a future convention in Free Albania (Decati).
- c. The Organization of Balli Kombetar is to liberate Albania from the red tyranny and to gather all moral forces against this enemy.
- d. There must be an agreement among all the nationalist parties, groups, and organizations, and Balli Kombetar must cooperate with them. (There were hints of derision against Hassan Dabbi, Abdu Ermani, and Yavuz Turanli.)

7. Ali Klementi also spoke about the "Union of the Kosovarides", the party of Birinci Dova, and the Independent party of Vorlacei. He criticized Hassan Dabbi and Osman Osman him, because they wrongly attack the others, whereas they themselves wore the "black tunics" during the Italian Occupation.

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8. Ali Kleisoura charged that at the convention of the International American Party in America, Harry Donti "told, red public, and in the presence of foreigners, that Sali Krjeziu and others are agents of Tito." "He ought not to have said this", continued Kleisoura, "because Sali Krjeziu is a member of the Committee of Free Albania, and participated in the Committee. If Donti was sure that Krjeziu is an agent of Tito, then he ought not to have accepted his offer of cooperation, but Krjeziu should have been executed for damaging national interests. What Donti said is untrue; his only purpose was to compromise Krjeziu to international public opinion".

9. Ali Kleisoura added that the establishment of the Albanian state, was due to the rivalry among the Great Powers. He said that before the war-as a political refugee he cooperated with Yugoslavia. However, when the question of Kosovo was raised, he was the first to raise a cry against Yugoslavia. "We have to cooperate with the weak against the strong. Then Italy was strong. Today, however, it is Yugoslavia and Tito. Therefore today we must cooperate politically with the weak. (Italy and Greece). In Greece there is a large number of Orthodox, anti-Communist Albanians. Therefore I want you to show me the way to cooperate with them, because this has great national importance". No one replied and he continued. "Knowing that, because the members of Balli Kombetar committed many wrongs against the Orthodox in Albania, the latter will not immediately agree to cooperate with us. I am considering proposing to Kyrgos in Athens that he establish a new party of Orthodox Albanians and send representatives to our organization for the purpose of cooperation. For this purpose I shall shortly go to Athens".

10. Two persons spoke in favor of Kyrgos, and others began to criticize him. Therefore Ali Kleisoura was compelled to stop the discussion of this topic.

11. Then Ali Kleisoura asked permission from the convention to seek funds from wherever he could, without undertaking any obligation, sincerely representing Albanian interests and the integrity of the country. He said that it was impossible to carry on the struggle without money, and that consequently they must not burden him with having sold out, because others, too, are compelled to accept money to carry on the struggle.

12. Ali Kleisoura also condemned the sending of clandestine groups into Albania: "Those who have been killed are heroes, but those who send them are murderers, because they have sent them to serve the interests of third parties, without getting any promise about maintaining the territorial integrity of Albania".

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13. Finally he said, "Under the mask of the Albanian Agrarian Party, or rather the 'International', are concealed persons who apply Communist methods. They are organizing today to take over the Government of the country dictatorially and surely to provoke a new civil war. These persons, agents of Communist terrorism, activities of some people of the Committee for Free Albania recently have weakened the organization of the Committee".

14. In closing he said, "We recognize the Committee of Free Albania as a National Council, with the exception of two people who apply their activities and their presence are injurious; our national interests and must be removed from the committee, (referring to Haxhi Dauti and Zef Panti). Balli Kombetar has left the Atlantic Charter for the national independence of Albania".

15. (Dr.) Miroslav Skender said, "Kloftura has done well in revealing to us these persons, because it is feared that taking the government into their own hands they will try to make the union with Tito's Utopian, as did the Hoxha Government while it was on the border with Tito".

16. The representative of the Independence party (Vlachos) said that the call of Kloftura for the union of all the nationalist parties was very necessary and timely. Balli Kombetar was passing through a critical period, and he hoped that the unity of all Albanians could be achieved and the aims pursued by the convention realized.

17. At the end of the two day meeting the Secretary Haiminger left by air for the United States. It is conjectured that he received financial aid from Verlorenvald from Italy to the amount of three or four million lire.

18. Within a few days, or ¹⁰ representatives of the Committee for Free Albania are leaving for Greece and Turkey at the expense of the Americans. Their purpose is to reorganize the party and to recruit volunteers for training. Among these representatives are the following: Oski Gogos, Hynen, Doca, Zef Pali, Kehan, Gentili, Sef Pigezli, and Ibrahim Ferka. Gci. and Krcicli have already received visas. Apparently they intended to leave on Saturday, a certain number of volunteers from countries other than Greece, because the number of Albanians residing in Greece is very small.

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19. The Committee of Free Albania received a letter from Nahman Doni which indicated the budget of the Committee as approved by the Americans. Each of the members of the Committee of Free Albania receives a salary of \$200.00 American dollars, except the Presidents (s/c) who receive more.

20. The Albanians are being given intensive training. This training is aimed chiefly at proficiency in sabotage and the use of various weapons. These Albanians are unhappy, according to their letters, because they have to work very hard and because they receive only \$37.00 a month instead of the \$60.00 which they were promised. (s/c)

21. Abas Kupi, who has promoted himself to the rank of General, has gone to Egypt. The purpose of his trip is to receive instructions from Zog and to recruit volunteers.

Field Comment: Letters written to Albanians in the Levrier D.P. camp [and intercepted by the Aliens Directorate] generally indicate that the Albanians in Germany are content.

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